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Seaton Supports Nixon In Cuba Row

By ROBERT W. RICHARDS

Chief, The San Diego Union's Washington Bureau

Copley News Service

WASHINGTON, March 24—Kennedy has vigorously denied the charge. Reached by this reporter at his home in Hastings, Neb., today that he was informed by the White House during the 1960 campaign that John F. Kennedy had been briefed on Cuban invasion plans.

Seaton thus entered what Washington has been describing as the "5th debate" between Mr. Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

'QUITE CORRECT'

Nixon has charged that Mr. Kennedy took the secrecy wraps off plans for mounting an anti-Castro invasion and

of 1960 could have resolved any doubt. Nixon relates, however, that he asked Seaton, during his campaign, to make the check. Nixon, now a candidate for the GOP nomination for governor in California, is seeking to rebut the Kennedy-Dulles denial that the then senator from Massachusetts was dealt in on the secret invasion plans.

Seaton said Nixon "was quite correct in assuming that Mr. Kennedy was informed of the plans for the invasion of Cuba."

"I called an official at the White House and was told that Kennedy had been briefed on the invasion plans."

Seaton declined today to identify the White House official. He said simply: "It was not the janitor."

TWO QUESTIONS

The statement from Seaton, who now is campaigning for the nomination as governor of Nebraska, at least partially answered two questions that have been bothering Washington in the post-election incident.

They are:

1. Why was Mr. Kennedy happily ignorant of the Cuban invasion preparations, while former Central Intelligence Agency chief Allen W. Dulles confirms he held back?

2. And why didn't Nixon check out with Dulles, himself, both during the campaign and before he included the denial in his book "Secrets of Power"?

A phone call in the autumn

of 1960 could have resolved any doubt.

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Nixon, now a candidate for the GOP nomination for governor in California, is seeking to rebut the Kennedy-Dulles denial that the then senator from Massachusetts was dealt in on the secret invasion plans. Seaton said Nixon "was quite correct in assuming that Mr. Kennedy was informed of the plans for the invasion of Cuba."

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No doubt exists at all that there was significant political mileage for Mr. Kennedy in the Castro issue. Nixon has agreed there was. And he complains about it in his book in which he relates how he was frustrated and under wraps because he was privy to the invasion plans and felt sure Mr. Kennedy also was but was honor bound to keep that information under his hat.

If Dulles had informed Mr. Kennedy of what was going on, Mr. Kennedy, as the presidential campaign reached its climax, would have been forced to make the Cuban situation, or suffer the charge that he violated top security policy and before he included the denial in his book "Secrets of Power."

Instead, Mr. Kennedy made it an issue. And one of his most useful. He was able flatly to advise Eisenhower and Nixon of a do-nothing policy toward Communist Cuba.